

- To encourage policies that facilitate preservation of the heritage of all Ontarians and recognition of the contribution of all members of the society.
- To provide assistance in clarifying for the public, Government policies relating to multiculturalism within a context of full, equal and responsible citizenship for all residents of Ontario.

The Advisory Council was formed in 1973. The Heritage Ontario Congress, in June 1972, provided an opportunity for province-wide consultations with a wide range of ethnocultural groups. The idea of establishing an advisory body came from the Congress. The Council's title and mandate were extended in 1979, to include citizenship as affecting the rights and responsibilities of all Canadians.

The Council has a full-time Chairman and a membership of up to 60 persons from across the Province, representing a wide range of ethnocultural backgrounds and occupations.

The Council's staff works with an executive committee and with all Council members to identify relevant areas of concern and to develop strategies for pursuing these issues, including provision for community input. Policy proposals for submission to the

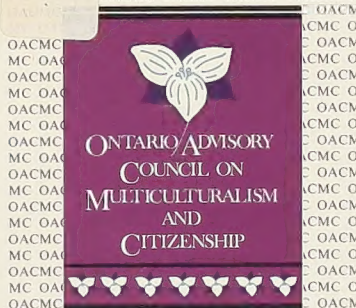
- committee meetings
- studies, surveys, reports
- visiting speakers
- public forums
- regional consultations

The Council maintains contact with government ministries and agencies at all levels, with multicultural associations across Ontario, with the community at large, and with similar councils in other provinces. Council members address public gatherings and meet representatives of community groups. Copies of the Council's Annual Report, Speakers' List, Multiviews and this brochure are available in English and in French.

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## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Becoming a fully participating member of Canadian society requires a conscious decision to fulfil civic and national responsibilities as well as obligations of family, work, and membership of the various groups to which we belong by choice and by heritage.

However, for these levels of individual participation to be effective, there needs to be the reciprocal assurance that basic human rights will be guaranteed for all members of the society. Our province, with its diversity of culture, race, language, religion and heritage, must recognise the reality of these dimensions of difference and continue to strive for accommodation.

The dynamic needs of our evolving democratic society provide many challenges to approaches founded on the historic past. For example, efforts are now being made to encourage greater sensitivity to minorities who have been virtually excluded from the mainstream of social, economic and political life in Canada. It is now beginning to be recognised that, while the merit principle should be maintained for employment selection and promotion purposes, differences in culture, race or sex should not in themselves be viewed as handicap, but as providing the advantage of different perspectives. Similarly, ensuring representation of all ethnocultural groups on advisory boards, commissions and agencies at the various levels of government will facilitate a cross-section of views on important issues affecting many areas of daily life for all residents of Ontario.

The Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship is supportive of the leadership shown by the Government of Ontario over the past decade in responding to the multicultural and multiracial nature of the province. Further, the past ten years'

experience suggests that the concept of multiculturalism should be expanded to include:

- recognition and acceptance of the longstanding multicultural nature of Canada's population;
- acknowledgement that the Oath of Canadian Citizenship confers on all citizens of Canada equality of status;
- confirmation of the right of all people to freedom of choice for cultural retention and encouragement in the exercise of this right;
- affirmation of the responsibility of the state to ensure equality of treatment for all residents, including equal access to government services;
- obligation of the state to protect minorities from acts of discrimination;
- acceptance of the need for special provisions to assist newcomer adjustment and integration;
- adjustment of societal arrangements to include representation and/or accommodation of minorities and minority perspectives, including language and religious forms and practices;
- development of process of intercultural sharing as essential to promotion of positive attitudes;
- commitment to representative portrayal of ethnocultural composition in visual, audio-visual, linguistic and literary reflection of population.

The diversity of our human resources is a measure of the possibility of richness and strength of our country. The variety of skills and the breadth of knowledge and experience we share are indicative of the creative potential at Canada's disposal. Those who have sought the fundamental freedoms offered by this country are fiercely committed to Canada as homeland, and must work with those fortunate enough to have inherited this as their birthright so that the multi-

cultural concept can be realised. This commitment is of importance in this province for, as Premier William Davis said in May, 1977, "We have something special here in Ontario — a many-cultured, multi-language population and heritage that holds promise of enriching all our lives and making us unique among the nations of the world. . ."

MAVIS E. BURKE  
Chairperson

MARGARETA MILNE  
Vice-Chair

OREST RUDZIK  
Vice-Chair

## THE COUNCIL

The Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship is an advisory body with members appointed by Order-in-Council for the specific purpose of advising the Government of Ontario on all matters relating to multiculturalism and citizenship affecting all persons in Ontario. This advice is presented to the Government through the Minister of Citizenship and Culture.

## CONCERNS

- To promote provincial policies that guarantee equality of opportunity for all residents of Ontario.
- To monitor and advise on policies relating to access to government services for all Ontarians.
- To promote policies and programs that will lead to positive attitudes to racial, religious, linguistic and cultural diversity in Canada's multicultural society.
- To encourage all ethnocultural groups in Ontario to share the richness and